

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1953.

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -

J. E. FANNON, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st May 1954.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district during the year has remained good and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I would draw your special attention to the decline in the birth rate in your district upon which I comment on page one of report.

It will be seen from the table on page four of the report that 10% of the inhabited houses in your district are dependant upon outside standpipes for their water supply.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Fannon, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss. P. Goddard, for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Sartin, and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Boyd Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 3.

A. Area - 41,481 acres.

Rateable value - £26,870.

Production of a penny rate - £109.4s.11d.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 5,850

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Comparative figures (a) Sherborne R.D.C. (b) England & Wales.	
Total	32	38	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 10.2	
Legitimate	30	38		
Illegitimate	2	-		
				9.1 15.5

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	-	1	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.2	.15	0.35
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DEATHS.

Total	25	29	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 9.2	8.6	11.4
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Deaths in infants under one year	Nil	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	-	26.8
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Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	Nil.
" " Tuberculosis	-	Nil.
" " Cancer of the Lungs	-	Nil.
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	-	6
" " Influenza	-	3
" " Pneumonia	-	1
" " Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
" " All other accidents	-	Nil.
" " Suicide	-	1

Comments.

Whilst the number of deaths during 1953 were 54 compared with 56 in 1952, the number of births were only 70 compared with 97 in the preceding year, giving a comparable birth rate of 9.1 to that of England & Wales of 15.5 and to that of North Dorset as a whole of 16.0 per 1,000 population.

The reduction in the number of births from 97 in 1952 to 70 in 1953 follows a steady reduction in the birth rate since the peak year of 1948 when 138 births were recorded.

The figure is, indeed, 17 less than in 1943, when the lowest birth rates were recorded throughout the Country.

Possible explanations for this decline in births are:-

- (i) The emptying of the Polish Resettlement Camp at Haydon and the re-housing of the occupants outside your District.

(ii) A flight of the younger people from the District.

(iii) A reduction in the marriage or fertility rate in the District.

Whatever is the explanation (and personally I should consider all the above reasons may contribute) the fall in the birth rate is not a healthy sign for your staple industry (agriculture) and the only way in which this unsatisfactory trend can be halted, I would suggest, is by the provision of housing accommodation of a type to satisfy the younger generation of farm workers and their wives.

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, in the district continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not been possible to develop fully the County Council's Domestic Home Help Service in the district. Otherwise the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district.

1. SANITARY STAFF.

J.E.FANNION, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Full-time Sanitary Inspector until 30.9.53 when he assumed the additional duties as Waterworks Manager.
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L.H.POOLE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Additional Sanitary Inspector. Resigned.
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Clerical Staff - one clerk (part-time).

It will be observed that one part-time Sanitary Inspector and one part-time clerk are the only staff which you have available to carry out the statutory duties for which you are responsible as a Sanitary Authority.

The reduction in your sanitary staff during the year is regretted as the Food & Drugs and the Housing and Rents Acts which will shortly come into operation, together with the end of centralised slaughtering by the Ministry of Food, will of necessity call for additional work from your Sanitary Inspector which he will be unable to carry out without additional assistance.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

Since the 1st October the maintenance of the Council's water supplies has been the responsibility of your Sanitary Inspector. Ultimately, it is the intention of the Council (in consultation with the Wincanton Rural District Council) to appoint a full time Waterworks Manager to be responsible for the maintenance of the whole of the Council's water undertakings.

Rainfall for the year 1953 (as recorded by Mr.C.E.Bean of Barton Gardens, Sherborne) = 26.50 inches.

(a) Quantity. Some temporary shortages of water were again experienced during the year due to a fall in the yields of the springs and to leakages of some of the principal mains caused by Oxford clay erosion. It was not possible for the Council to accede to all requests made for additional supplies for agricultural purposes.

(b) quality. The bacteriological quality of some of the supplies still prove unsatisfactory, in particular the Southern Parishes Supply. Chlorination of all the Council's supplies is carried out and regular samples submitted for bacteriological examination and for free chlorine estimation. The details are given below.

<u>Council Supplies.</u>	<u>Bacteriological.</u>	<u>Chemical.</u>	<u>Chlorine Estimation.</u>
Beerhackett	2	-	2
Yeovil Borough	1	-	1
Southern Parishes	24	1	19
Leigh	10	1	2
Holwell & Bishops Caundle	2	-	2
Bradford Abbas	7	1	2
Trent & Sandford Orcas	17	2	13
Oborne	12	1	2
	<hr/> 75	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 43
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Private Supplies.</u>	<u>Bacteriological.</u>	<u>Chemical.</u>	<u>Chlorine Estimation.</u>
Yetminster	1	-	-
Stockwood	2	-	-
Beerhackett	5	-	-
Batcombe	1	-	-
Bradford Abbas	21	-	5
Nether Compton	5	-	-
Over Compton	2	-	-
Clifton Maybank	1	-	-
Thornford	7	-	-
Trent	4	-	-
Longburton	2	-	-
Poyntington (Tenants Supply)	8	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -	59	-	5
Grand Total	<hr/> 134	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 48
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(c) New Works and new connections. The length of water main between the Carpenters Arms and the Bakery, Leigh, was renewed and the overland main at Bishops Caundle was relaid underground during the year.

In connection with the comprehensive water supply scheme, the construction of the headworks at the Thornford Borehole was continued.

New Connections. The following new connections to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

(i)	Domestic use	52
(ii)	Agricultural purposes	8
(iii)	Other purposes	Nil

(d) Details of domestic supply.

Parish.	Houses with Public Supply.	Houses with Standpipes.	Houses with supply direct to house.	Population supplied (estimated)
Batcombe (part)	11	2	9	31
Beerhackett (part)	12	-	12	37
Bradford Abbas (part)	52	-	52	182
Castleton (part)	10	5	5	29
Caundle Bishop	85	20	65	259
Caundle Marsh	22	5	17	94
Caundle Purse	47	5	42	174
Chetnole	66	8	58	244
Clifton Maybank (part)	8	-	8	25
Folke	99	23	76	314
Goathill	10	4	6	49
Haydon	19	3	16	70
Hermitage	13	5	8	33
Hilfield	11	4	7	43
Holnest	39	-	37	111
Holwell	97	5	92	350
Leigh	114	15	99	398
Leweston	1	-	1	20
Lillington	4	-	4	12
Longburton	81	7	74	241
Melbury Bubb (part)	5	-	5	17
North Wootton	9	1	8	32
Oborne	39	-	39	108
Ryme Intrinseca	39	7	32	139
Sandford Orcas	55	3	51	193
Stockwood (part)	6	-	6	24
Trent (part)	27	1	26	98
Yctminster	173	3	170	622
	1154	126	1025	3949

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Bishops Caundle. The sewage works and main sewer to this parish were completed during the year. The Council houses at Curtis Close and Hill View were connected to the scheme and 47 properties out of 86 on the line of the sewer were connected to the sewer during the year.

Bradford Abbas. Work on the sewage disposal works and the sanctioned portion of the sewer proceeded during the year and was completed, apart from the installation of the pumping machinery. To permit the occupation of the new houses on the Queens Road site a temporary arrangement for the disposal of the sewage was constructed which proved satisfactory as a temporary measure.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. A monthly collection of house refuse is made throughout the district. The amount of refuse collected continues to increase as more new houses are completed.

(b) Salvage. The demand for salvage materials of all types has continued to decline. Salvage to the amount of £13.13s.4d was sold during the year compared with £175.6s.9d. in the preceding year.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The employment of a contractor for the work of emptying cesspools and settlement tanks of the Council's housing sites has shown a marked economy over the use of direct labour which was previously the means by which the Council undertook this work. The Council no longer undertake the emptying of private cesspools.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Without satisfactory parish sewerage schemes available, pollution of ditches at Purse Caundle, Trent, Yetminster, Thornford, Leigh and Chetnole has occurred and these have been cleansed when necessary to prevent nuisance. A length of ditch at Mill Lane Trent was piped for this purpose. Sewer ditches at Bishops Caundle are now showing marked improvement as village properties become connected to the new sewer.

A serious case of pollution of the River Wriggle occurred at Yetminster. In co-operation with the Somerset Rivers Board, informal action resulted in the nuisance being abated.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	37
No. of defects found	Nil
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	7
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	25
	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 32

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u> <u>Found. Remedied. Referred by</u> <u>H.M. Inspector.</u>		
Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable or defective	1	1	1

No. of outworkers = 67

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district which is used by the public on occasion by special permission. The water comes from springs and is chlorinated when in use.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of moveable dwellings licensed during the year	8
No. of camping sites licensed in the district	Nil

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Six properties were treated for flea infestation and one property in respect to fly cluster.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

The Rodent Officer and his staff of two operatives are available for the treatment of infestations and the organisation has worked smoothly during the past year.

Test baiting of the Council's sewers at Bishops Caundle was carried out with negative results.

13. RAC FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No. of registered premises	Nil
No. of licensed premises	Nil
No. of inspections carried out in respect to such premises	Nil

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

15. SCHOOLS(INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

Routine inspections, in liaison with the Dorset County Council, were carried out during the year.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was taken under these Acts during the year.

17. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of houses inspected during the year	216
No. of inspections made	369

No. of informal notices served	2
No. of informal notices complied with	2
No. of statutory notices served	1
No. of statutory notices complied with	8

No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	1
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Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

(a) Demolition Orders made	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Reconditioning	1
(ii) Closure	Nil

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to the Local Authority	Nil.
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	Nil.
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.

Total No. of houses in the district	1,790
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Requisitioned premises etc.

One house was held under requisition at the end of the year. Nine houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority.-

	<u>Temporary</u> <u>Prefab.</u>	<u>Swedish</u> <u>Timber.</u>	<u>Traditional</u> <u>Type.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
During 1953	-	-	55	-
Post-war	-	-	195	-
Total No. of families re-housed during 1953				77

It will be noted that 55 new Council houses were completed during the year compared with 29 in the preceding year and that 77 families were re-housed compared with 41 in 1952.

Rural Housing Survey.

	<u>Prior to 1953.</u>		<u>No. of inspections</u> <u>during 1953</u>	
	<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Detailed.</u>	<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Detailed.</u>
Category 1	446	38	-	-
2	540	19	-	6
3	512	57	-	15
4	114	105	-	3
5	96	95	-	10
	1708	314	-	34

The reduction in your sanitary staff during the year is reflected in the reduced number of housing inspections carried out, particularly in relation of detailed inspections under the Rural Housing Survey. It is unfortunate that limitation of activity in respect to the improvement of defective property should have occurred just when labour and materials were becoming available for the purpose and when the Council had decided to restrict the provision of new Council houses. A reversal of this policy is called for in the light of Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 30/54.

Housing Acts 1949 & 1952 - Improvement Grants.

Four applications were received during the year for grants under these Acts. In two cases grants (in respect to three houses) were made. In one case grant was refused and in one case the application was withdrawn.

An increasing number of property owners have made enquiries with regard to the availability of these grants and it is anticipated that the removal of the upper financial limit to the cost of the improvement works will result in an increasing number of applications for grant being received.

Housing Applications.

At the end of the year there were 143 applicants on the Council's waiting list of whom 115 were resident within the district. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 144 and 118 respectively.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949
by the District Council under regulation 14 of the
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 2

No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the
Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised
Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 4

No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under
regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 _____ 6

No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8
of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 _____ 6

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination
during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	3
Accredited	1
Pasteurised	10
Non-Designated	2

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13
of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 _____ 49

No. being - restaurant kitchens _____ 3
hotel kitchens _____ 1
food factories _____ 2

No. of premises subject to Section 13 inspected
during the year _____ 15

No. of inspections - restaurant kitchens _____ 7
hotel kitchens _____ 2
food factories _____ 6

No. of premises in the district subject to registration
under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 _____ 12

No. of premises registered in respect to -
(a) Ice-cream _____ 11
(b) Sausages & prepared meats _____ 1

No. of inspections during the year _____ 14

No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for
Methylene Blue Test _____ Nil

Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. There are two private licensed
slaughterhouses in the district.

(b) Butchers and other shops.

quantities of food condemned - Nil.

19. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out _____ Nil
No. of disinfections _____ Nil.

20. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,456
Total No. of informal notices served	13
Total No. of informal notices complied with	9
Total No. of statutory notices served	3
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	1
No. of prosecutions	Nil

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	88
Whooping Cough	28
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	4
Malaria (contracted abroad)	1
Scarlet Fever	2
Erysipelas	1
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1

Measles was prevalent during the year, 88 cases being notified together with 28 cases of whooping cough. One paralytic case of poliomyelitis occurred, although this disease was not otherwise prevalent in the area.

Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
4	-	-	-

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

